

Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

PRAY AGAIN

Pastor Don Shoots

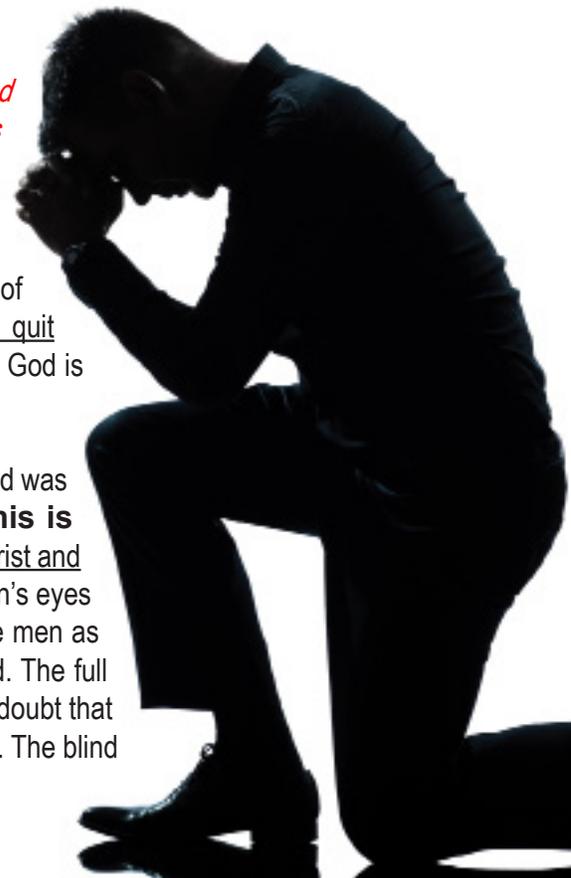
“Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.” (1 Chronicles 29:11-12)

This scripture continues to broaden our knowledge of who our Father God is. This great Almighty God encourages me to come boldly to **His** throne. I can approach Him in prayer! Now let's move to the book of Mark to see a needed example of why we must set our intent in prayer, to pray again.

“And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.” (Mark 8:22-24)

We exhibit doubt in the most unusual of ways. It's not always because of blatant sins or outward elements of unfaithfulness, but by the very fact that we quit pursuing God in the life of faith. We stop reaching to touch Christ and believe that God is who He said He is.

This story is about the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry. The power of God was upon Him, He was the anointed One, sent to take away the sins of the world. **This is about Christ**. A blind man approaches Him asking to be healed. He pursued Christ and Christ responded to the pursuit. Jesus then made spittle and put it on the blind man's eyes and then asked the man, “What do you see?” The man looked up and said, “I see men as trees!” Christ *himself* prayed for a blind man, and his full sight **was not** returned. The full miracle did not happen, the prayer was not totally answered. However, we cannot doubt that there was a touch. We cannot ignore that the power of God was evident, to a point. The blind man can now see men, **but** they look like trees.



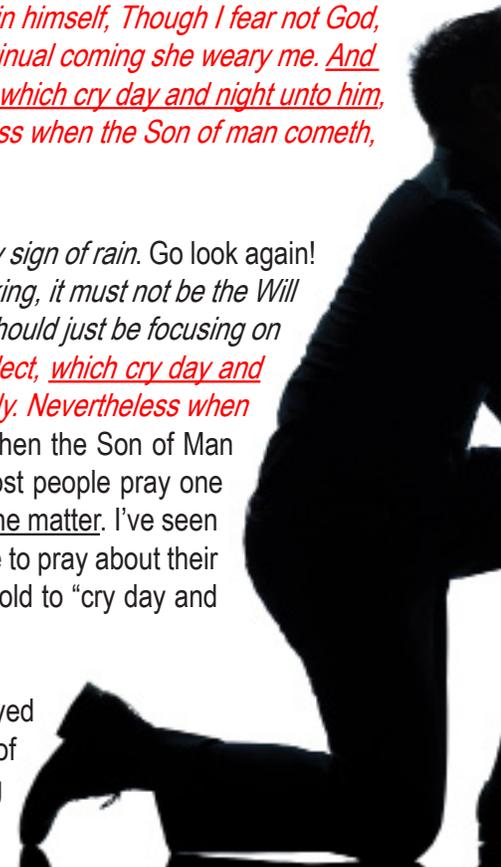
Now, right here often comes doubt, and a total change of pursuit. You see, we pray *one time* really well. We can pray once with great exuberance and enthusiasm. In some ways we can pray once with great faith, *seemingly, until we move into the matter of having to pray about it **again!*** When we have to pray about it again something happens inside of our being. Something happens in that element of eagerness, the fire in our bones has somewhat dissipated, it's just not there anymore. Oh, it was there when we prayed the first time, but when we have to pray a second time our faith is challenged. *Well, I guess that is how it ought to be. He should have just been thankful he could see at all. Well, he is not totally blind anymore. I know the men are a little distorted and look like trees walking, but praise God he got a touch!* We would ask this man to stand up and testify. *I was blind before Jesus touched me, but now I can see light, I can see colors, I can see images. I can tell that something is there now.* But Jesus PRAYED AGAIN. **The ultimate expression of faith is not that you pray one time, but that you keep praying and believe in prayer, and believe in who you are praying to.** You believe God will hear and answer your prayer! You won't serve God long without learning that sometimes you have to pray about something more than once! You go after it with fervor; you know your back is against the wall and without a breakthrough in prayer you won't survive! *I've got big problems, but I've got a big altar and I keep bringing my big stuff to a big altar so my big God can handle it. I am going to pray AGAIN.* Jesus Christ put His hands upon him AGAIN. *After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.* (verse 25) What if Jesus had not prayed twice?

Ever notice when we pray the first time and don't get the answer what a dark cloud comes over us? We get so theological and say, "Well, it must not be the will of God" or "It must be sin". The Bible says that Jesus put His hands on the blind man AGAIN and he was restored and saw every man clearly. This was Jesus praying. He could have stopped and got partial results, but He stayed with it, because His faith was of such that He could keep praying. We are talking about praying again. If the devil can ever get you to stop praying, it's pretty-well over. You can stop a thousand things, but you can't stop praying. When you stop praying, that means your faith regarding that specific request is gone. You believed it only under *certain* circumstances or under this criteria, but not under a different criteria. So now we have a partial faith, and a partial belief in what the power of God can do. This then produces partial results.

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8

Pray again. *Well, it doesn't look good. Well, I went and looked and I don't see any sign of rain. Go look again! I've been thinking about it, it looks to me like there must be sin in the camp. I've been looking, it must not be the Will of God. I've been thinking, maybe I ought not to be praying about that anyway. Maybe I should just be focusing on something else.* *"Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"* (verse 6-8) What a phrase: "when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Why did He put that in scripture? Because most people pray one time and quit. People who pray one time and quit, at the end of the day have no faith for the matter. I've seen a lot of religious activity: shouting, anointing, praying, but ask those same religious people to pray about their situation again and they won't or can't. They have taken it as it is. In Luke 18:7 we are told to "cry day and night", to pray day and night. Pray, don't faint! Pray, don't faint!

If you are living for God there are things you have put on the altar. If you have prayed about those things any length of time Satan has said to you, why don't you take that off of the altar? *"Because I've got the faith to leave it there"*, ought to be the answer! I am going to pray again about it. *Yeah, but things look worse now than they did a year ago. I know*



that, in the natural they often do, but suddenly, like a rushing mighty wind God can move! It doesn't take but one move from the Father and everything will change. In the book of Nahum it says that the clouds are the dust from God's feet. When there are cloudy days, and there isn't a ray of sunshine we can look to the heavens with the knowledge that God is up to something. I may not know what He's doing, but I know He is doing something. God can bring down an empire today, He can put a man in his casket tomorrow. He can raise a dead man who smells like he's rotted; He is God Almighty. Careful consideration must be made to keep prayer scriptural and biblical, and not just a corporate, religious act.

To quit pushing against things in prayer says we have moved to a position of acceptance.

Oh, what an indictment. We still sing songs like, "I'm living by faith", and "Reach out and touch the Lord". We sing these songs loud, and with emotion, but we pray once and then stop?! Nobody knows that better than you. I don't listen to every prayer, but God does. Don't pray one time and quit...pray again, stay with God! If you believe God is, as I Chronicles 29 states, then pray again!

Years ago God showed me a small piece of His storehouse, He slightly opened the door and slammed it shut quicker than He opened it. If He would have left the door open I would have collapsed because the glory of it was so radiant. Everything I would ever need or want, today, tomorrow, or in eternity was in the storehouse of God. He didn't have to go get it, manufacture it, or figure out how to make it. God is God, and He always will be God! He already has everything we need!

The book of Daniel (10:2) says that, "*In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.*" Three full weeks, Daniel mourned. Words were flowing from his lips as he humbled himself. The Word says he "ate no pleasant bread". Daniel is not just praying, he is fasting and praying. Can you imagine how the enemy must have tormented his mind? Daniel said, "*I was mourning*"... "*I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth.*" All of that praying there still was no answer. Just as sure as the world turns, someone came up to him asking, "Do you really believe in fasting? You know you should be careful, there is a lot of sickness going around, you better eat something or you'll die". Daniel fasted and prayed for 21 days! Surely discouragement and doubt pressed his spirit. Here is a man who "*mourned*", "*Ate no pleasant bread*" or meat, "*neither did he anoint himself at all*". Three weeks went by and nothing from heaven showed up. I can see all the demons of hell sitting on the sidelines saying, "Prayer doesn't work Daniel, you are just a religious zealot."

REAL PRAYER IS NO CASUAL EXERCISE!

Don't let religion talk you out of believing God. **Pray Again!** I said, Pray Again, and tell the devil he is a liar and the Father of all lies. Let's move to verse 12 where heaven responds. "*Then said he unto me; Fear not; Daniel*". Let's just stop and look for a moment at that. What do we think that means for Daniel? I can tell you the enemy told him a thousand times it wasn't working. Fear is somewhere near his heart as he is looking at the end of all the ages, the visions, the interpretation, and seeing things now never seen by man. The first thing God said was "*fear not*". "*For from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand...*"

"FROM THE FIRST DAY YOU PRAYED!"

Pray again! God heard Daniel's prayers; pray again church, pray again! "*...And to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.*" Have you ever prayed and felt like you weren't saying it right? I'm convinced we never do, but that doesn't mean God doesn't hear us. When someone dies of a heart attack that's what we say, "he died from a heart attack." However, that's not what the Doctor calls it, he's got a big, long name for it. "I have a headache." No, the doctor says, "you have cranial pressure behind the lower lobe next to the pituitary gland." Sometimes it won't seem like you are saying it right, but God can interpret the intentions of your heart. You just keep praying!

Now God explains why he didn't come on the first day. You see, a lot of people don't understand that there

are principalities and powers that contradict all holy acts. God says to Daniel, I know what you prayed, "*But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days*". He then said, I called Michael, "*one of the chief princes*", and he came to help me. **God always gets through!** We can never pray right without getting right. You will never pray right without something happening. It will lift your spirit, it will cleanse your mind, cleanse your thoughts, correct your motives, and everything will fall in line. "*Knock and it shall be opened unto you*". When you study the word "knock" it means to "rap". Rap on the door means to knock more than once. Satan attempts to restrict our pursuit of God through prayer. God brings no man into the conflicts of life to desert him. Every man has a friend in heaven whose resources are unlimited. Prayer is statistically proven to be very rare. Statistically men do not pray. Prayer is not a very encouraging subject unless we want something for self, or someone swindles us into believing we can pad our flesh with just one prayer. God plays no games like that.

I have come to tell you, under the authority of God's Holy Word, PRAY AGAIN! Don't you let the lying devil put a barrier up between you and your answer! IT'S YOUR ANSWER, IT BELONGS TO YOU!

There have been times when I have prayed and it seemed as though nothing's happened in moving the answer closer to me. Immediately a heaviness, a doubt and a troubling wanted to take hold of my mind and my spirit. You see, satan will rattle off all the reasons why; *you didn't pray right, you didn't choose the right words, there must be sin, and it must not be the Will of God.* On and on he pecks away until after a while we fold it all up and stop praying. We cower and accept what the enemy desires to place in our life. To that one who is discouraged today along the lines of prayer, I want to encourage you to pray again. God's not dead, you're not dead, there is hope, and there is faith!

Somewhere along the line our faith is exhibited by whether we pray again or not. Anybody can pray once, but not everybody can pray twice. Are you discouraged? Have you prayed and nothing has changed? Faith says, "Pray again", the Word of God says, "Pray again".

PRAY AGAIN, CHURCH. WE MUST PRAY AGAIN!

Central

Pentecostal Ministries



Worshipping God in the Spirit of Pentecost

The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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